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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/665,565 | 09/22/2003 | Kotaro Fukui | 04329.3142 | 6163 |
| 22852 | 7590 | 01/03/2006 | | EXAMINER |
| | | | | RIMELL, SAMUEL G |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | | 2164 |

DATE MAILED: 01/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/665,565 | FUKUI, KOTARO |
| | Examiner Sam Rimell | Art Unit 2164 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.


SAM RIMELL
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: ____.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Koopsman et al. (U.S. Patent 5,121,477).

Claim 1: FIG.2 illustrates a function database in form of columns 26, 28, 30, 32 and 34 which describe various functions (26) that can be assigned to functions keys (30) on a keyboard. The set of functions shown at (26) represents a categorization of functions (they are placed in the category of “action text”) and each of the function represents a specific type of function within the category of “action text”.

In FIG. 2, the order form (24) is the assigning unit. FIG.2 represents the assignment of default values, which reads as the assignment of arbitrary functions to specific keys.

Claim 2: Within the database of FIG. 2 (26, 28, 30, 32 and 34) are stored a key code group (30) and a program group (26).

Claim 3: Within the database of FIG. 2 is shown a keycode group (30) and program group (26). All of the groups in the database are a previously used function group by reason that they are default values that exist prior the key associations being changed (FIG. 4 shows the changed values).

Claim 4: The assigning unit is the order form (24) in FIG. 2.. It is the interface by which the relations between keys and functions are specified.

Claim 5: The assigning unit is the order from (24) in FIG. 2. It is a user interface which presents the user with the functions categorized into the category of “action text” (26).

Claim 6: The assigning unit is the order form (24) in FIG. 2. It presents to the user the functions which have been assigned to keys. All of the functions shown can be re-assigned to other keys, as illustrated in FIG. 4.

Claim 7: The assigning unit is the order form (24). As seen in FIGS. 3-4, the assigning unit permits the user to select and change the functions assigned to particular keys or sets of keys.

Claim 8: In FIG. 3, the pop-up window (62) is the user interface by which a user may select specific functions to be changed.

Claim 9: The database of FIG. 2 stores function for application programs (search programs, computing programs and word processing programs, as seen at 26) and stores the functions associated with key codes (30) which are managed by the database. As seen at (30) combinations of key codes can be combined together to represent specific functions.

Claim 10: The user interface of FIG. 2 presents the user with descriptors of operation buttons at (30). The other types of buttons and keys in claim 10 are optionally recited.

Claim 11: The assigning unit comprises various subunits, such as the display (60) in FIG. 2. The remainder of the claim is directed to intended usages of the apparatus rather than structures of the apparatus, and is accordingly not attributed patentable weight (MPEP 2106, Section C).

Claim 12: The presenting unit is a computer monitor which inherently presents the display of FIG. 2-4. The operation screen is the display of FIG. 4 in which both functions and key

assignments have been changed. Any individual row of keys which correlated to a function reads as a “pressing condition”.

Claim 13: See remarks for claim 1.

Claim 14: See remarks for claim 2.

Claim 15: See remarks for claim 5.

Claim 16: FIG. 2 is a presentation to the user of the default values in the database, which reads as the presentation of the arbitrary set of functions.

Claim 17: The presentation of default values in FIG.2 reads as the “previously used function group”, since the values in this database are the original relations of keys to functions before they are subsequently changed.

Claim 18: See remarks for claim 12.

Claim 19: FIG.2 illustrates the assignable keys (30) and the functions which have been assigned to them (26). The identification of assignable keys (30) also reads as an identification of a location of assignable keys, since the key names such as (F2) have a specific location on a keyboard.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Sam Rimell at telephone number (571) 272-4084.



Sam Rimell
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2164